

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USBERL 00386 012125Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 558

AMEMBASSY BONN NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 386

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CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS, AEAGC-COC & AEAAG-AP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, WB, GW

SUBJ: LORENZ KIDNAPPING; TRANSPORT OF PRISONERS; MEETINGS

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PAGE 02 USBERL 00386 012125Z

REF: USBERLIN 384

SENAT CHANCELLERY CHIEF HERZ AT 7:00 P.M. MARCH 1 PROVIDED ALLIED LIAISON OFFICERS WITH FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON POSSIBLE TRANSPORT OF MEMBERS OF BAADER-MEINHOF GANG PRESENTLY IMPRISONED IN BERLIN AND FRG IN RESPONSE TO DEMANDS OF KIDNAPPERS OF PETER LORENZ;

A. ONLY THREE OF SIX PRISONERS NAMED BY KIDNAPPERS HAVE CATEGORICALLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXCHANGE FOR LORENZ-ONE IN FRG AND TWO IN BERLIN. TWO MALE PRISONERS IN FRG HAVE ASKED TO CONFER WITH THEIR LAWYERS AND TO HAVE TELEPHONE CONFERENCE WITH OTHER FOUR PRISONERS BEFORE COMMITTING THEMSELVES. REMAINING HOLD-OUT, B-M LAWYER HORST MAHLER PRESENTLY IMPRISONED IN BERLIN, WHO HAD REFUSED PARTICIPATE, WILL APPEAR ON TELEVISION AT 10:00 P.M. MARCH 1 (IN FILMED SEQUENCE --NOT LIVE) AS REQUESTED IN MOST RECENT KIDNAPPER LETTER TO CONFIRM HIS NON-PARTICIPATION IN PRISONER EXCHANGE. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, NO B-M PRISONERS HAVE YET BEEN BROUGHT TO BERLIN.

B. MAJORITY VIEW IN SENAT IS THAT ONLY SIX PRISONERS NAMED BY LORENZ KIDNAPPERS (OR NUMBER THAT EVENTUALLY AGREED TO PARTICIPATE) PLUS FORMER GOVMAYOR ALBERTZ WILL ACTUALLY DEPART BERLIN ON AIRCRAFT ARRANGED BY SENAT--IF SENAT AND FRG ACTUALLY DECIDE TO GO THROUGH WITH PRISONER EXCHANGE FOR LORENZ. MINORITY VIEW IN SENAT IS THAT OTHER ANARCHISTS, PROBABLY INCLUDING LORENZ KIDNAPPERS AND PERHAPS LORENZ HIMSELF, WOULD ALSO BE RIDING ON CHARTER PLANE. CAREFUL READING OF FIRST NOTE FROM KIDNAPPERS (USBERLIN 369) SUPPORTS MAJORITY VIEW. SUBSEQUENT NOTE FROM KIDNAPPERS

(SEPTEL) INDICATING LORENZ WOULD ONLY BE RELEASED WHEN ALBERTZ HAS RETURNED REPEAT RETURNED TO BERLIN IS ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THIS THEORY. SENAT HAS NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH KIDNAPPERS AND IS UNABLE NEGOTIATE WITH THEM EXCEPT THROUGH RADIO AND TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENTS TO WHICH KIDNAPPERS REPLY BY LETTER.

C. NEXT SCHEDULED CRISIS STAFF MEETING AT RATHAUS SCHOENEBERG IS AT 10:00 P.M. MARCH 1. MOST IMPORTANT MEETING, ACCORDING TO HERZ, HOWEVER, WILL TAKE PLACE IN BONN AT 10:00 A.M. ON MARCH 2. GOVMAYOR SCHUETZ AND SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS STOBBE FLYING TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USBERL 00386 012125Z

THAT MEETING MORNING OF MARCH 2 IN USAF AIRCRAFT. THEY WILL REMAIN FOR ANOTHER 12 NOON MEETING BEFORE FLYING BACK TO BERLIN AFTERNOON OF MARCH 2. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT FINAL DECISION ON KIDNAPPER DEMANDS

AND MODALITIES OF TRANSPORT WILL BE MADE AT MARCH 2 BONN MEETING. GEORGE

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